6/17/75

Mr. James J. Kilpatrick
White Walnut Hill
Woodville, Va. Va. 22749

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick,

In response to your kind letter of the 11th I owe you no less than a caution:

Do not let your brethren, liberal and conservative alike, ever know that you found me "civil, temperate and persuasive." They would surely have you committed!

There is a "controversy" because of them, mostly the liberal major media. There really is no controversy over the facts. Only those who have not taken the enormous amount of time decent inquiry into the investigation of the JFK assassination requires or are partisans can believe there really is legitimate disagreement over the basic facts.

Normally, unless there is a personal attack on me, I do not write columnists. Your column was different in one respect and typical in another. Your sincerity was apparent, the difference. But you were and remain the captive of quotable officialdom. The tragedy is that without investing time you probably can't find time for there is no way for you to escape this captivity except by silence.

And of what use is a press that is silent on important issues?

If you had any way of knowing the field in which I work you'd never have described the others who are known as my "hoity-toity friends." "Hoity-toity" is an unjustified kindness to them and they are anything but my friends. I am, in fact, alone in trying to take a middle position. This means that both sides oppose me with vigor. My "friends" are my enemies.

You are unique in writing,"I'm delighted to learn of your efforts to get at the undisclosed records, an applaud your persistence." I appreciate it, but my point is not thanks. Here I am, a man without means, and without even a single story appearing I have filed five FOIA suits. One is the first of four cited in the debates that led to the amending of the law, a fine law, which had been re-written in the courts by errant officialdom. Without complete silence by the press this would not have been possible. Because of this silence it is right now being done again.

Official perjury is commonplace. Two weeks ago today, not for the first time, I charged and proved it under oath, in court. It remains unnewsworthy. And as long as it does officials are encouraged to corruption and the freedom of information so essential to a genuinely free society is endangered.

I regard the Warren Commission executive session transcripts on which I have ended more than 11 years of improper secrecy as some of the more sordid of official documents, a classic example of how even the eminent work when they expect secrecy in perpetuity. It took six weeks to give the last one away. While it was front-page news throughout the country, no Washington or New York paper made any mention.

One columnist, with a past that pinches today, completely misrepresented the substance of the accurate AP story and the transcript itself. This is all the press most members of the legislature see carried.

He has not seen fit to respond to what I wrote him.

I do not lament my lot, although others might be unwilling to live as what I do requires of me. I regard it as no more than an effort to meet the obligations of a writer and citizen.

However, I do regard it as a sad day for the country when the obligation is accepted by one writer only. And as a commentary on the state of the press today.

If you ever look into this further, my offer of help was genuine.

Besides, I have no real choice. I can't pay for publishing what I am bringing out of undeserved oblivion. Thus when it took from 1967 until this year to obtain it I gave the Commission's 1/22/64 executive session away. I'm doing the same with the tests for which I'm suing now. Although the government is being dishonest and continues to withhold, swearing falsely to be able to continue to suppress, I have obtained enough to make clear that the investigation was faked.

Believe it or not, I have not succeeded in giving this evidence, including pictures of the fakery, away to a single paper or wire service. My efforts to get what I have took me to the Supreme Court once. In the course of this a judge actually held that I should be forever forfended from continuing my investigation. No mention of this appeared any place except in his decision. But if you know of any paper that would be interested in having this material, please refer it.

This letter requires no answer. I hold to an ancient belief that representative society can function only when the people are informed. If this demands that I write you at 5 a.m. in order to do other work later, I welcome the chance to meet the demand. I owe the effort, as I see it. I try to inform you so that when you again decide to write on this subject you can have a better idea of what the facts are and where to turn for non-official information.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg